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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 45/9 of 25 October 1990, the General Assembly took note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General (A/45/526 and Add.1) and approved the conclusions and recommendations of the coordination meeting of the focal points of the lead agencies of the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC). It requested the United Nations and OIC to continue cooperation in their common search for solutions to global problems and encouraged the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to continue to expand their cooperation with OIC.

2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly recommended that a general meeting between representatives of the secretariats of the organizations of the United Nations system and OIC and its specialized institutions, as called for in resolution 44/8 of 18 October 1989, be organized in 1991 at a date and place to be determined through consultations with the concerned organizations. It requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in cooperation with the Secretary-General of OIC, to encourage the convening of sectoral meetings in the priority areas of cooperation, including the areas of human resources development, environment and disaster relief. It also requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the state of cooperation between the United Nations and OIC.

II. CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE AND REPRESENTATION AT MEETINGS

3. On 1 October 1990, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of OIC held their annual coordination meeting at United Nations Headquarters to discuss the agenda of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly, particularly those items which were of concern and interest to OIC. In response to an invitation from OIC, the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship of the Secretariat attended the coordination meeting on behalf of the Secretary-General.

4. On 3 October 1990, during his visit to United Nations Headquarters, Mr. Hamid Algabid, Secretary-General of OIC, met with the Secretary-General of the United Nations to discuss matters of concern to the two organizations.

5. During the period under review, representatives of OIC participated in meetings of the Security Council and the General Assembly.

6. Regular consultations were held and information was exchanged during the period under review between the Department for Special Political Questions,

Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship and the general secretariat of OIC.

7. Pursuant to resolution 45/9, a sectoral meeting on "Human Resources Development: Basic Education and Training" was held at Rabat from 24 to 26 April 1991 (see A/46/417/Add.1) between the concerned organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and OIC and its specialized institutions.

8. At the invitation of OIC and the Government of Turkey, the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship represented the Secretary-General of the United Nations at the Twentieth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held at Istanbul from 4 to 8 August 1991, at which he delivered a message on behalf of the Secretary-General.

9. A general meeting between the representatives of the secretariats of the organizations of the United Nations system and OIC and its specialized institutions, called for in resolution 45/9, is scheduled to be held at Geneva from 19 to 22 November 1991.

III. FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COORDINATION MEETING OF THE FOCAL POINTS OF THE LEAD AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AND THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE AND ITS SPECIALIZED INSTITUTIONS

10. It may be recalled that the coordination meeting of the focal points of the lead agencies of the United Nations system and OIC and its specialized institutions was held at Vienna in September 1990 (A/45/526/Add.1). The meeting agreed upon a number of conclusions and recommendations aimed at strengthening cooperation in the seven priority areas established by the two organizations.

11. The agencies and organizations of the United Nations system serving as focal points for the seven priority areas are as follows:

	Agency/organization	Priority area
A.	Centre for Science and Technology for Development of the Secretariat	Development of science and technology
B.	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	Development of trade
C.	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Technical cooperation among Islamic countries
D.	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Assistance to refugees

Agency/organization	Priority area
E. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	Food security and agriculture
F. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	Education and eradication of illiteracy
G. United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	Investment mechanisms and joint ventures

12. Outlined below is a summary of the reports of the agencies and organizations serving as focal points concerning their cooperation with OIC in the priority areas during the period under review.

A. Development of science and technology

Centre for Science and Technology for Development/Advisory Committee for Science and Technology for Development

13. The Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development (ACSTD), a subsidiary organ of the Intergovernmental Committee for Science and Technology for Development (IGCSTD), is considering the contribution of science and technology to the development of least developed countries, six of which are members of OIC: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. ACSTD is also studying the special case of small least developed countries such as Djibouti. At its eleventh session, IGCSTD drew special attention to this matter and encouraged the Centre to take further action in this regard. The Centre will devote appropriate resources to addressing this question.

Endogenous capacity-building

14. Work on endogenous capacity-building is in progress in both Jordan and Pakistan. A representative of the Centre for Science and Technology for Development visited Pakistan from 1 to 8 June 1990 to further the development of the project there. The project is in its final stages of cooperation.

Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals

15. The United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development has been encouraging the expansion of the TOKTEN project in Islamic countries. Compared to 1989, there was an increase in the number of consultants sent to Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic during the period under review.

B. Development of trade

16. In pursuance of the recommendations of the 1990 meeting of the focal points of the lead agencies, OIC and UNCTAD have continued to support each other's programmes through the exchange of information and by reinforcing each other's databases.

17. Initial consultations between UNCTAD and the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industries and Commodity Exchange at Karachi were held during the sixth session of the Standing Committee on Commercial and Economic Cooperation among Islamic Countries, held at Istanbul in October 1990. It was agreed that further discussions would be held, with a view to developing a feasibility programme to improve the functioning of the national chambers of commerce and industry.

18. In the area of transfer of technology, UNCTAD is making preparations for the publication of the proceedings of a seminar on technology selection, negotiation and acquisition, organized in December 1988 at Kuala Lumpur for Islamic countries, in cooperation with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Standards and Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia. The publication is aimed at providing assistance to policy makers in Islamic countries in the field of technology transfer and development.

19. In the area of shipping, ports and multimodal transport, OIC member countries benefiting from the technical assistance programmes of UNCTAD have increased in number. Many countries in North Africa as well as in South and South-East Asia participate in maritime management training, a comprehensive training package that provides management with a tool for coping with human resource requirements. Within the framework of the Transport and Communications Decade for Africa and Asia, countries of OIC are directly involved in many regional and subregional projects executed either by UNCTAD alone or in cooperation with the regional commissions.

C. Technical cooperation among Islamic countries

20. UNDP participated in both the sixth session of the Standing Committee on Commercial and Economic Cooperation among Islamic Countries and the first OIC Ministerial Meeting on Technical Cooperation, held at Istanbul in October 1990. It presented a report to the ministerial meeting on the activities it had undertaken in support of technical cooperation among developing countries.

21. The Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries continued its role as the UNDP focal point for technical cooperation among Islamic countries, supporting technical cooperation activities both substantively and financially.

22. The Unit provided catalytic financial support in the form of coverage of international travel costs, enabling representatives from Cameroon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, the Niger and Senegal to participate in the workshop on the restoration and preservation of manuscripts and archival materials. The workshop, which was held from 10 September to 12 October 1990, was organized by the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture at Istanbul.

23. The Special Unit also continued to cooperate with IsDB through consultative meetings and by providing to staff members of the IsDB Technical Cooperation Programme Unit training at UNDP headquarters in New York.

24. With regard to the dissemination of information on the institutional capacities of the developing countries through the Inquiry Referral System (INRES-South), Algeria, Iraq and Tunisia were among the developing countries that received computer hardware and software through INRES-South, as part of the measures being taken to decentralize the INRES database.

D. Assistance to refugees

25. The Special Adviser for Islamic Affairs of UNHCR attended the Nineteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Cairo in July and August 1990.

26. The terms of a special agreement between UNHCR and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) have been finalized and are to be formally signed in the latter part of 1991. This agreement provides for the participation of ISESCO (without voting rights) in the session of the UNHCR Executive Committee. Conversely, UNHCR will be represented at the ISESCO General Conference when matters of common concern are discussed. Moreover, the agreement provides for general and permanent cooperation, the exchange of information and documents, regular meetings of a joint commission and mutual benefits in staff and services.

E. Food security and agriculture

27. FAO continued its close cooperation with OIC in the field of food security and agriculture. There was some delay in the launching of certain activities owing to the prevailing situation in the Middle East.

28. Below are the highlights of the activities in the past year that marked the cooperation between the two organizations.

Meetings

29. FAO was represented at the meeting of the focal points of the lead agencies of the United Nations system and OIC, held at Vienna from 12 to 14 September 1990. It presented a background note on food security and agricultural development.

30. FAO attended the Nineteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Cairo in July and August 1990.

31. FAO attended the first OIC Ministerial Meeting on Technical Cooperation, held at Istanbul in October 1990. At the same time, FAO attended the meeting of the Standing Committee on Commercial and Economic Cooperation (COMCEC) among Islamic countries. Among the important decisions of those meetings was the adoption of a text for a framework agreement on the establishment of a preferential trade system among OIC countries. The agreement would have to be signed by at least 10 member countries to become effective. Another decision was to combine the initiatives on establishing a multi-purpose information system presently being developed by IsDB with a commercial database being developed by the Islamic Centre for Trade and Development at Casablanca, Morocco.

Cooperation with the Islamic Development Bank

32. IsDB approved the Screwworm Eradication Campaign in North Africa project, estimated at $US 5 million, half of which will be executed by FAO. The preparatory phase was completed in February 1991 with the shipment of sterile flies from Mexico to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. The campaign is now dispersing 28 million flies per week over the entire infested area. The Bank also approved a new project for the development of fisheries in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. The $US 2.6 million project will be executed by FAO.

Agricultural policy, sector analysis and statistics

33. FAO assistance to OIC member States regarding policy-related matters continued during the period under review. Particular attention was given to the following: analysis of policy options to provide a financial basis for sector adjustment programmes with international financing agencies such as the World Bank; assessment of the impact of sector adjustment programmes on the agricultural and rural sectors; and preparation of sector policy reviews to guide decisions on national agricultural development strategies.

34. A revised version of the study entitled "Intraregional Labour Movement and Agricultural Development in the Near East Region" was published in 1990. The paper stressed the positive impact of the transfer of foreign exchange and the negative impact of the cost of farm labour in countries of origin on agricultural development. The study observed that the labour movement had been reversed in view of the decline of the construction boom in the oil-exporting countries.

35. A food and agricultural policy analysis course was conducted at Cairo in November and December 1990 for a number of government officials of the Near East region. The course was jointly sponsored and organized by the Institute for National Planning of Cairo, FAO and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

Training

36. Egypt, Iraq, Morocco and Tunisia participated in an international trainers' course on the computer software Computerized System for Agricultural and Population Planning Assistance and Training (CAPPA) for agricultural sector analysis, which was held at Cyprus in June 1990. An earlier regional seminar had introduced the CAPPA software to participants from Bangladesh, Indonesia and Malaysia.

37. A training project in regional planning for officials working in the regional directorates of agriculture in Tunisia is under way. Another training project in programming and the preparation of microprojects has recently been completed in the Niger.

38. Support continued to be provided to the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC) based at Ankara, particularly in the field of sectoral analysis and workshops on computer use. It was also agreed that the Ankara Centre would collaborate with the Islamic Centre for the Development of Trade (ICDT) at Casablanca, Morocco, in providing data on trade in agricultural commodities. A workshop on trade flow of special agricultural products was being planned for the fall of 1991.

Food security

39. Food security is one of the top priority areas identified by FAO and OIC. Owing to recent events in the Middle East, no substantial progress could be reported on the project proposal for OIC food security reserves, which was originally discussed in August 1989.

40. Under the FAO Food Security Assistance Scheme, technical assistance to strengthen food security is being provided to a number of OIC member countries. In 1990, 10 projects with a total budget of about $US 10.7 million became operational in 6 OIC member countries. These included early warning and food information projects in Benin, the Niger, Senegal and the Sudan; four market management food reserve and cereal bank projects in Bangladesh, Benin, Chad and the Sudan; and food security policy and planning assistance projects in Chad and the Niger. In addition, eight projects were operational in seven countries prior to 1990.

41. The FAO/Food Security Assistance Scheme continued to provide assistance to Chad and the Niger in the formulation of comprehensive national food security programmes.

Forestry

42. Forestry specialists of the Forestry Department of FAO attended meetings of interest to FAO and OIC such as the Eleventh Session of the Near East Forestry Commission, held at Ankara from 15 to 19 October 1990, and the Sixteenth Permanent Joint Committee Meeting of the Green Belt Project - North Africa, held at Tunis from 10 to 12 January 1991.

43. Collaboration with several OIC countries concerning the Tropical Forestry Action Plan continued.

Investment projects for agricultural development

44. During the period April 1990 to March 1991, 12 agricultural investment projects prepared with the assistance of the FAO Investment Centre were approved for financing by multilateral institutions. Total investments involved in these projects were estimated at $US 364 million, of which $US 250.4 million would come from the World Bank, $US 93 million from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), $US 15.2 million from the African Development Bank (AfDB), $US 3 million from the United Nations Capital Development Fund and the balance from a commitment by the 11 recipient countries. The projects would cover agricultural and rural development in Guinea, Nigeria, the Sudan and Turkey; fisheries development in Algeria, Bangladesh and Guinea-Bissau; agricultural research in the Niger, Pakistan and Tunisia; pumping station rehabilitation in Egypt; and seeds development in Nigeria.

45. FAO assisted OIC countries in the formulation of 42 additional investment projects for eventual consideration by financing institutions; carried out five-subsector surveys; and assisted seven Governments with project completion reports to assess achievements after loan disbursal. Staff from FAO also visited 17 ongoing UNDP/FAO technical assistance projects to investigate their investment potential.

Information systems

46. Thirty-five OIC member States participated in the International Information System for the Agricultural Sciences and Technology (AGRIS) and in the Current Agricultural Research Information System (CARIS). They all benefited from the systems' outputs and services.

F. Education and eradication of illiteracy

47. UNESCO took part in the coordination meeting of the focal points of the lead agencies of the United Nations system and OIC held in September 1990. It presented a report concerning the struggle against illiteracy and UNESCO activities to promote technical cooperation among the Islamic countries. To give fresh impetus to that cooperation, which so far had been limited to ISESCO, a specialized institution of OIC, UNESCO held consultations with senior officials from OIC on 27 November 1990 at UNESCO headquarters. Following the consultations, UNESCO agreed to cooperate with the United Nations and OIC in organizing a sectoral meeting on human resources development, which was subsequently held at Rabat in April 1991.

48. In the area of culture, UNESCO cooperates in various ways with OIC, particularly with the International Scientific Committee of OIC, in the drafting of a study on the various aspects of Islamic culture. UNESCO has

also participated in the work of the Committee in preparing a draft plan of action for Islamic culture. UNESCO is continuing its cooperation with ISESCO and the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) located at Istanbul.

49. The Joint Committee for Cooperation, provided for within the framework of the agreement drawn up by UNESCO and ISESCO in 1984, held its second meeting at UNESCO headquarters from 22 to 26 October 1990. UNESCO and ISESCO agreed on their areas of cooperation, particularly in the context of the follow-up to the World Conference on Education for All, held at Jomtien, Thailand, and the World Decade of Cultural Development. The two organizations are working together on the preparation of the Regional Conference of Ministers of Education to take place in 1991. UNESCO is also prepared to assist ISESCO in the organization of regional, subregional and national workshops and seminars in the field of educational management and planning, in the renovation of the educational systems and in the reinforcement of the appropriate infrastructure.

Primary education

50. In the field of primary education, UNESCO and OIC cooperated mainly through ISESCO in a number of activities undertaken in 1989-1990.

51. ISESCO contributed financially to, and participated in, the following meetings organized by UNESCO:

(a) A workshop on the experimentation of a methodological guide on the administrative and pedagogical management of primary education for the training of School Principals, held at Rabat in March 1989;

(b) A meeting of specialists concerning the integration of disabled children and children of migrants in the national school system, held at Ljubljana, Yugoslavia, in May 1989;

(c) The World Conference on Education for All, held at Jomtien, Thailand, in March 1990.

52. ISESCO participated in a meeting of specialists to finalize the methodological guide on the administrative and pedagogical management of primary education, organized jointly by UNESCO and the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation in Africa (ACCT), and held at Bordeaux, France, in April 1990.

53. UNESCO and ISESCO cooperated in other areas of education such as literacy and adult education, basic education for all, and higher education, which they discussed during the two consultations held at UNESCO headquarters in October and November 1990.

G. Investment mechanisms and joint ventures

54. As a focal point and lead agency for investment mechanisms and joint ventures, UNIDO cooperated with practically all member States of OIC within the framework of technical assistance projects aimed at enhancing and diversifying the industrial base of those countries. Many such projects facilitate the formation of investment mechanisms and joint ventures through assistance to national development banks, chambers of commerce and industry, through pre-investment studies and industrial plans, as well as through identifying joint venture partners for individual projects submitted by OIC member countries.

55. The most important UNIDO activities include the following:

(a) In Turkey, UNIDO is assisting the State Planning Organization in promoting foreign investment through a programme aimed at training national staff and at establishing an Industrial and Technological Information Bank (INTIB) focal point.

(b) UNIDO has close working relations with IsDB. Their joint activities include the ongoing assistance by UNIDO to IsDB in identifying suppliers and potential joint venture partners for the manufacture of solar pumps utilizing photovoltaic cells in Mauritania and the Niger.

(c) Within the framework of the Joint Communiqué on Cooperation signed in February 1988 between UNIDO and the Gulf Organization for Industrial Consulting (GOIC), UNIDO continues to prepare techno-economic investment project profiles. Out of 50 profiles foreseen in the Joint Communiqué, UNIDO has completed the preparation of 21; the remaining profiles will be prepared after the UNIDO/GOIC joint review meeting.

(d) A programme of assistance was prepared for Tunisia in the area of identification and promotion of projects in the electrical, electronics and telecommunications industry.

(e) Following the project assessment meeting devoted to the promotion of joint venture cooperation among the Islamic countries held at Istanbul in March 1990, projects in Bangladesh, Cameroon, Mali, the Niger and Somalia were reported to be progressing. The most advanced project related to the establishment of a textile mill in Bangladesh for which the feasibility study had been completed by a Turkish partner. The project was estimated at $US 20 million, most of which would be financed by IsDB.

(f) As a consequence of two important events attended by the Islamic countries - the Solidarity Ministerial Meeting on the Industrial Development of Guinea, held at Conakry in December 1989, and the Meeting on the Promotion of Industrial Cooperation, held at Cameroon in April 1990 - UNIDO is currently assisting the cooperating partners.

(g) UNIDO participated in and submitted a working paper to the United Nations/OIC Sectoral Meeting on Human Resources Development: Basic Education and Training, held at Rabat.

(h) For a number of years UNIDO has been assisting the secretariat of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce in evaluating the latter's capacities for the identification and implementation of joint venture projects in Islamic countries. To this end, a locally recruited UNIDO expert is assisting the Chamber of Commerce in fostering cooperation among the Islamic countries and in evaluating studies for the mobilization of investment. Recruitment of the expert was financed through the contribution of Pakistan to the Industrial Development Fund.

(i) UNIDO is currently examining and negotiating with national Governments and donor agencies a number of requests from OIC member countries concerning such areas of investment promotion as the establishment of an industrial promotion centre in Sierra Leone; the promotion of private investment in Senegal; the establishment of an investor promotion unit within the Saudi Council of Chambers of Commerce; and the elaboration of an industrial promotion strategy for Oman.

IV. COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

A. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat

56. In the context of its activities in projections and perspective studies, an area relevant to the work of OIC, the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat has technical expertise in the development, management, updating and revision of econometric models, which can be utilized by OIC member countries for analysing their economic outlook and the evolution of economic policies. These capabilities may be further utilized in broadening the economic horizons of their research by giving more explicit treatment to specific socio-economic development issues. The linkage of various individual country planning models into a comprehensive framework for a regional model could serve as an excellent basis for studying prospective trends and conditions of countries.

57. As part of its work on the world econometric model of Project Link, the Department maintains econometric models of different countries for analysing their economic outlook and the evolution of economic policies. The Department can also provide information on world trade matrices that now cover the 22-year period from 1965 to 1987 for four major commodity groupings and comprise 80 countries and regions, including developing and developed market countries and regions and Eastern European countries. The Department's analysis of global trade patterns treats 15 member countries of OIC individually and others as members of subregional groups.

58. The Department also prepares comprehensive sets of internationally standardized data, measuring economic activity and selected social conditions in most countries of the world. Such data have been made available to the Conference in the past and can be made available in the future.

59. The Department undertakes research on population and population-related issues that are relevant to the work of OIC and its member States. In addition to the biennial preparation of estimates and projections of population size to the year 2025 and other key demographic parameters to the year 2025 for all countries of the world, the Department also issues studies on population trends and policies on a regular basis. While the focus of this research is primarily global in nature, case-studies reviewing national population experience have been carried out for Bangladesh, Kuwait, Morocco and Tunisia, as well as studies of large cities such as Cairo, Dhaka, Jakarta and Karachi.

B. United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations

60. The United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations has acquired broad experience in some of the priority sectors discussed in the previous reports of the Secretary-General (A/45/526 and Add.1), in particular, development of science and technology and investment mechanisms and joint ventures.

61. In these areas the Centre's expertise will have a positive effect on any transaction involving foreign participation. In a world where internationalization of the economy is the norm, foreign investment permeates all sectors of activities. One of the most important tasks of developing countries is to conclude satisfactory deals with the purpose of increasing the benefits derived from investments. The Centre's technical cooperation programme emphasizes precisely the enhancement of the negotiating capacities of developing countries. Investment mechanisms and joint ventures is one area where the Centre's expertise is unique. The reports cite cooperation solely with UNIDO. In this regard, the Centre should play a more active role in the future. It has undertaken a series of missions to, and activities in, various member countries of OIC. It has carried out projects relating to advisory services, training workshops and seminars. The projects were mainly national rather than regional in scope and involved many member States of OIC.

C. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

62. UNRWA has maintained contacts at different levels with the OIC secretariat since 1987. Meetings take place at Jeddah from time to time between the Agency officials and the OIC Under-Secretary-General for Palestine and Al-Quds and other secretariat staff. Regular contacts through correspondence and exchange of telephone calls are also maintained.

63. UNRWA keeps OIC informed about its activities and programmes through public information and other materials regularly sent to Jeddah. In addition, UNRWA maintains good relations with IsDB. UNRWA has made an official request to attend the annual meetings of OIC, as an observer, as is the case with other United Nations organizations.

D. Economic Commission for Africa

64. IsDB and ECA have agreed on a programme of technical cooperation under which IsDB has accepted to co-finance six ECA projects covering sectors considered vital for the economic development of the African region. In principle, IsDB has approved a contribution of $US 597,299 to the programme.

65. In addition, the Pan-African Development Information System (PADIS), a division of ECA, has undertaken many activities to strengthen cooperation with specialized institutions of OIC, such as ISESCO, the Islamic Research and Training Institute (IRTI) and IsDB. It may be noted that OIC member States include 19 African countries also covered by PADIS.

66. PADIS usually participates at meetings organized by the specialized institutions of OIC. It is currently examining the possibility of establishing cooperation with ISESCO, IRTI and IsDB in the field of exchange of information and data concerning development.

E. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements

67. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS/Habitat) increased its level of cooperation with and assistance to member countries of OIC during 1990. In the field of technical cooperation in the development and improvement of human settlements, UNCHS executed over 75 country-level projects and 8 regional projects during 1990. These projects covered the subject areas of settlement policies and strategies, settlement planning, shelter and community services, development of the indigenous construction sector, land policies and human settlements institutions and management.

68. In response to specific requests from OIC member countries and in cooperation with their respective Governments and UNDP, Habitat has presented over 25 project proposals and pipeline projects.

69. During 1990, UNCHS recruited more than 70 experts and consultants of OIC member countries under the programme of technical cooperation. Furthermore, it granted 34 fellowships and conducted study tours for nationals of 12 OIC countries.

70. A large number of OIC members participated in the subregional seminars on the Global Strategy for Shelter organized by Habitat. Burkina Faso and Indonesia, OIC member countries, hosted the subregional seminars in their respective subregions. Several OIC member countries participated in the UNCHS

training activities. The Ministry of the Interior of the Government of Morocco hosted the workshop on training of trainers in municipal management, the first pilot activity for North African Arab States, held at Tangiers, Morocco, from 20 February to 9 March 1990. A total of 23 trainers and training policy advisers from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia participated in the workshop. Preparations are under way for the second pilot activity on the training of trainers in training needs assessments, to be held in Tunisia.

F. Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator

71. UNDRO maintained contacts with OIC with regard to strengthening cooperation between the two organizations in all matters related to natural disasters and other emergencies. In December 1990, in a letter addressed to the Secretary-General of OIC, the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator reiterated his offer to cooperate with OIC. It was subsequently agreed that an OIC delegation should visit UNDRO to discuss and identify areas of cooperation.

72. During the period under review, UNDRO kept OIC informed of disaster relief assistance extended to the following OIC member States: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lebanon, Pakistan, Somalia and Sudan, which had been affected by floods, cyclones, earthquakes and other emergencies.

73. Following the Gulf crisis in August 1990, thousands of nationals of OIC member States received assistance for repatriation to their respective countries within the framework of the Regional Humanitarian Plan of Action, established by UNDRO and other United Nations agencies and programmes, and coordinated by UNDRO. The Plan covered the five neighbouring countries of Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey, all OIC member States, through which most of the displaced persons transited. UNDRO also launched, on request, international appeals for assistance to Egyptian and Yemeni returnees.

74. Projects related to disaster management and aimed at strengthening national capacities to deal with natural disasters and other emergencies are either ongoing or will be undertaken by the following OIC members States: Afghanistan, Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Saudi Arabia and Tunisia. The OIC member States bordering the Mediterranean Sea, namely, Algeria, Egypt, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Turkey, participate in a regional project aimed at reducing the effects of earthquakes in the Mediterranean region.

G. International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

75. Since the second general meeting between representatives of the secretariats of the organizations of the United Nations system and OIC held at Geneva in July 1986, INSTRAW has made every effort to develop, in cooperation

with OIC or its member countries, programmes related to women and development. Information on INSTRAW programmes and possible areas of cooperation were sent to OIC and its specialized institutions, such as the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA), the Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research (ICTVTR), the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC), the Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development (IFSTAD) and the ISESCO.

76. In order to adapt to national and local conditions the multimedia modular training package entitled "Women and New and Renewable Sources of Energy" prepared by INSTRAW in collaboration with the International Centre for Advanced Technical and Vocational Training, the Institute organized the National Training Seminar on Women and New and Renewable Sources of Energy, which was held at Cairo from 24 to 28 June 1990. UNDP, the National Research Centre of Egypt and the Scientific Association of Arab Women in Egypt collaborated in the organization of the seminar. Recommendations were made on the modifications to be made in the modules as well as on the expansion of the INSTRAW programme on women and energy to include the organization of training workshops at different levels in various countries.

77. A regional training workshop entitled "Women and New and Renewable Energy Sources" was held at Tripoli from 1 to 8 December 1990 for Arab African countries. It was organized by the International Energy Foundation, which translated the modules into Arabic in collaboration with the African Regional Centre for Solar Energy, INSTRAW, UNDP and the General Union for Women's Societies.

H. International Civil Aviation Organization

78. ICAO remains ready to cooperate with OIC within its area of responsibility and continues to provide technical assistance to a great many States members of OIC.

79. A Memorandum of Understanding has been drawn up between ICAO and IsDB. Recalling the vital contribution of civil aviation to the social and economic development of IsDB countries, the Memorandum provides for cooperation between ICAO and IsDB in all areas of civil aviation development projects, including their identification, preparation, execution and post-project evaluation. The Memorandum was signed on behalf of ICAO by the President of the Council of ICAO and will come into effect after its signing by the President of IsDB.

I. World Bank

80. The thrust of World Bank relations with OIC member States remains essentially unchanged. The Bank continues to support economic and social programmes in individual OIC member States through its lending and selected activities. In 1990, the Bank committed over $US 5.5 billion to development

programmes in those countries. This assistance was concentrated in the priority areas of education, agriculture, energy and power, telecommunications, transport and adjustment programmes.

J. International Monetary Fund

81. In the calendar year 1990, the staff of IMF made 101 visits to 41 member countries of OIC. Of these visits, 72 were periodic consultations or discussions on adjustment policies that might be supported by IMF financial resources and 29 were technical missions, which consisted of the following: 8 related to the fiscal affairs/public finance area, 6 to tax reforms, 4 to central banking, 4 to monetary policy, 2 to balance of payments, and one each to national accounts, exchange and trade system, foreign exchange management, customs tariff reform and public debt management. IMF resident experts and advisers were stationed in 18 OIC countries; IMF representatives were in residence in 12 countries.

82. As at 31 December 1990, the following financial arrangements were in effect in OIC member countries: three standby arrangements totalling 203 million special drawing rights (SDR); one extended arrangement equivalent to SDR 138.2 million; three structural adjustment facility arrangements totalling SDR 439.88 million; and five enhanced structural adjustment facility arrangements totalling SDR 684.1 million.

83. In addition, during the IMF/World Bank annual meetings in 1990, regular contacts and discussions were held with all OIC/IMF members through informal visits by senior IMF staff.

K. Universal Postal Union

84. UPU has taken the initiative of establishing relations with OIC by sending it documentation about postal development in the countries covered by OIC and by requesting from OIC in return all of its documents, with a view to laying the foundation for an exchange of information and concrete proposals for active cooperation between the two organizations.

L. World Meteorological Organization

85. While WMO has no existing or planned specific technical cooperation activities with OIC at this stage, it continues to be interested in strengthening cooperation between them. Discussions have taken place concerning support to regional projects such as the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), which would be of benefit to OIC members in Africa.

86. Further, WMO scientific and technical activities have been and continue to be carried out by OIC members through the implementation of UNDP financial projects, WMO voluntary cooperation programmes and/or WMO regular project budget as well as trust fund arrangements. Many OIC members received support in 1990 in the area of technical cooperation.

M. International Maritime Organization

87. IMO remains ready and willing to consider concrete measures of cooperation with OIC, in accordance with the wishes or requests of that organization.

N. International Fund for Agricultural Development

1. Investments in Islamic countries

88. As at 31 December 1990, IFAD had been instrumental in implementing 116 projects in 30 Islamic countries at a total project cost of $US 6.6 billion, of which IFAD contributed $US 1.3 billion (SDR 1,149 million) in loans and $US 12 million (SDR 10 million) in technical assistance grants. Other external donors contributed $US 2.0 billion and $US 3.1 billion came from the recipient Governments. Of the 116 projects approved by IFAD for 30 Islamic countries, 41 are in Africa, 28 in Asia and 47 in the Near East and North Africa.

2. Loan disbursements to Islamic countries

89. Most IFAD loans to Islamic countries are at a relatively early phase of the loan disbursement cycle. Nevertheless, as at the end of December 1990, the Fund had been able to disburse about SDR 647 million (approximately $US 863 million) to the Islamic countries. This works out to a cumulative disbursement rate of 53 per cent of the total loan commitment to the Islamic countries.

Resource mobilization

90. The IFAD investment of $US 1.3 billion in the 30 Islamic countries has mobilized an additional amount of $US 5.1 billion from other external donors and recipient Governments. This equals a mobilization factor of 3, which is quite impressive.

3. Contributions from Islamic countries

91. The 41 Islamic member countries of IFAD have contributed a total of $US 917 million to IFAD's resources under the initial resources, first, second and third replenishments combined. This represents about 30 per cent of the total contributions made to IFAD resources in convertible currencies.

4. Projects in the pipeline for Islamic countries

92. At present there are 40 projects in the pipeline for 23 Islamic countries. Of these, 11 are in Africa, 7 in Asia and 22 in the Near East and North Africa. This represents 43 per cent of the total number of IFAD projects in the pipeline.

O. General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

93. With the accession of Tunisia in August 1990 to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, member States of OIC that are contracting parties to GATT now total 21.

94. During the period under review, OIC member States, whether contracting parties or applying the General Agreement on a de facto basis, focused their attention on the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations aimed at bringing about further liberalization of world trade and at improving the multilateral trading system.

95. The GATT secretariat has continued to provide technical assistance to OIC member countries in the form of seminars, workshops and briefing sessions in order to facilitate their effective participation in the Uruguay Round negotiations. Assistance relating to regular GATT activities has also been provided on a continuing basis.

96. Three national seminars were held separately in Egypt, Morocco and Senegal. In addition, a regional seminar was held in Morocco in May 1990 for African countries participating in the Uruguay Round, to which several OIC member countries of the region were invited.

97. Officials from OIC member countries have also been invited to participate, as in the past, in the GATT commercial policy training courses.

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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

SECTORAL MEETING BETWEEN THE ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AND THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT: BASIC EDUCATION AND TRAINING

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 45/9 of 25 October 1990 on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in cooperation with the Secretary-General of OIC, to convene sectoral meetings in the priority areas of cooperation, including the areas of human resources development, environment and disaster relief, as recommended by the 1990 meeting of the focal points of the lead agencies of the two organizations.

2. Following consultations between organizations of the United Nations system and OIC, it was agreed to hold a sectoral meeting on the theme "Human Resources Development: Basic Education and Training".

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

3. The sectoral meeting on "Human Resources Development: Basic Education and Training" was held at Rabat from 24 to 26 April 1991. The main items on the agenda were: (a) review of current and planned programmes of the United Nations system and OIC and its specialized agencies in the domain of basic

education and training in the Islamic countries; (b) review of needs and priorities in basic education and training identified by Islamic countries or OIC; and (c) identification of possible areas and modalities of cooperation between the United Nations and OIC and its specialized agencies to meet the needs of the Islamic countries.

4. The meeting had before it working papers prepared by the participating organizations and agencies of the two organizations.

5. Representatives of the following departments, organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system participated in the meeting: Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship of the Secretariat; United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); World Food Programme (WFP); International Labour Organisation (ILO); Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); World Health Organization (WHO); and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

6. Representatives of the following departments and specialized institutions of OIC participated in the meeting: General Secretariat, Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO); Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development (IFSTAD); Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT); Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research (ICTVTR); and Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC).

7. UNESCO and ISESCO were designated lead agencies of the United Nations system and of OIC and its specialized institutions, respectively.

8. His Excellency Professor Abdelhadi Boutaleb, Director-General of ISESCO, opened the meeting with a welcome address. The inaugural session was addressed by His Excellency Dr. Tayeb Chkili, Minister for National Education of Morocco. Statements were also made by His Excellency Mr. Ousman N. R. Othman, Assistant Secretary-General of OIC, and the representatives of the organizations of the United Nations system.

III. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

A. General

9. The participants reviewed developments concerning basic education and training in Islamic countries in the light of the Declaration of the World Conference on Education for All, held at Jomtien, Thailand, in 1990, and within the wider context of human development.

10. The participants, meeting in plenary sessions and in working groups, agreed on a framework for continued consultations and cooperation between the

United Nations system and OIC and its specialized institutions in the domain of basic education and training for human development. To this end, the participants agreed to support a multidimensional programme for human development that would encompass a variety of interrelated activities.

B. Commitment to human development and to education for all

11. The meeting noted that the Islamic countries were committed to a policy of human development that emphasized basic education, in particular, as a factor in national development. This was considered indispensable for creating the necessary capacities for endogenous development, for cultural renewal and for strengthening national integration and social cohesion. Access to education for both male and female citizens was recognized as a human right. The importance of science and technology in education was also emphasized, as was the need for creating linkages between education and other development issues such as health, agriculture, demography, the environment and the spiritual and cultural dimensions of development.

12. The meeting considered the relevance of the Special Islamic Programme for Literacy and Basic Training in Islamic Countries and Communities as an overall strategy for the development of human resources in the Islamic world. This programme was approved by the Second Extraordinary General Conference of ISESCO and cited by the World Conference on Education for All as an example of a framework for a regional plan of action. The meeting expressed satisfaction with the elaboration of this strategic framework and recommended that it should be supported, as appropriate, by the United Nations system and OIC and its specialized institutions.

C. Magnitude of problems in education

13. The meeting noted that, despite the commendable efforts of Islamic countries to provide basic education for children and adults, the situation regarding human resources development continued to be a matter of grave concern. Population statistics indicated that over 45 per cent of children of school age were out of school and a high percentage (more than 30 per cent) dropped out of school early, either for socio-economic reasons or for failure of the system to keep them. Percentage of illiterates and non-schooling children rose dramatically among girls and women, the urban poor and the rural population.

14. It was emphasized that the issues the Islamic countries faced today with respect to education were issues of quantitative and qualitative development. The Islamic countries had to increase resources for education, improve the quality of its personnel, adopt innovative approaches and methodologies, and, above all, ensure effective participation of the people in designing and implementing educational plans. It was recognized that, for the vast majority of low-income Islamic countries, finding adequate financial local resources would continue to be a problem for many years to come and that they would

deserve support from the higher-income Islamic countries, as well as from regional and international organizations.

D. Main challenges and priorities for the 1990s

15. The meeting considered the impact of internal and external factors on human development in Islamic countries. Among the most significant issues that had to be tackled were population growth, economic constraints, changing employment structures, the deterioration of the environment, drought and famine, far-reaching progress in science and technology, and the increasing production and exchange of knowledge and information. It was stressed that education and training should provide a solid foundation for dealing with these issues.

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

16. The meeting was unanimous in its conviction that the most appropriate course of action for Islamic countries to take in order to meet the challenges of the future was to expand access to education to include all; to improve the quality of education; and to meet the learning needs of all citizens of all ages.

17. The meeting agreed that the provision of basic education for children and adults should be conceived as part of a series of socio-economic changes designed to bring about real improvement in the material, cultural and social conditions of society as well as the process of democratizing society as a whole.

18. The meeting further agreed that the Islamic countries should be assisted by both OIC and United Nations specialized agencies in designing and implementing educational plans to achieve real progress in meeting the basic learning needs of their populations, as a prerequisite for human development.

19. The meeting stressed the need for OIC and the United Nations system to strengthen and expand their cooperation for the benefit of Islamic countries in the domain of basic education and training to enable these countries to achieve their national goals of human development.

20. It was agreed that cooperation between OIC and the United Nations specialized agencies should be aimed at the following:

(a) Supporting the efforts of individual countries;

(b) Promoting dialogue and exchange of information and experience between countries;

(c) Facilitating the mobilization and the pooling of resources, and implementing joint activities benefiting two or more Islamic countries;

(d) Facilitating and promoting training programmes between member States of OIC, with particular emphasis on human resources development.

21. The meeting also agreed that a precondition for effective cooperation among agencies would be coordination, to the extent necessary, of their plans and the joint implementation of their work. In this connection, the meeting considered the existing mechanisms in the Islamic countries, such as the regional programmes and projects by UNESCO for universalization of primary education and eradication of illiteracy, as well as the special Islamic programme of ISESCO for the eradication of illiteracy, to be useful frameworks for cooperation between OIC and the United Nations system.

22. The meeting considered the interdisciplinary nature of the pressing needs of education, health, agriculture, the environment, population education, science and technology, and technical and vocational training. It also considered the need to strengthen research and information capacity in the Islamic countries. It recommended that OIC and the United Nations system should cooperate on a multidimensional integrated approach to basic education and training for human development in Islamic countries, covering the following areas of activity:

(a) Vocational and technical training of personnel;

(b) Preparation and dissemination of educational material;

(c) Research: collection of data and information;

(d) Administration of education;

(e) Introduction of science and technology in basic education programmes;

(f) Promotion of basic education and population education to meet the particular needs of girls and women;

(g) Protection of the environment;

(h) Health of the mother and child, including child spacing;

(i) Development of traditional educational institutions;

(j) Development of traditional industries and handicrafts;

(k) Development of vocational components into basic education programmes;

(l) Education for the disadvantaged.

23. In the implementation of the above recommendations, the meeting also agreed to the following:

(a) Each country would determine its areas of priority that would have a multiplier effect;

(b) Priority would be given to women and disadvantaged groups such as rural populations and other low-income groups;

(c) Exchange of expertise among Islamic countries would be increased;

(d) Non-governmental organizations would be invited to take a more active role in the development of human resources;

(e) The private sector, universities, research institutions and the media should play a leading role in the development of human resources.

V. FOLLOW-UP ACTION AND IMPLEMENTATION

24. With regard to follow-up action and implementation, it was agreed that:

(a) The focal points of the United Nations system and OIC for basic education and training, namely UNESCO and ISESCO, would continue consultations and close cooperation with each other, with a view to implementing the recommendations contained in the present report;

(b) A technical working group, comprising concerned organizations and agencies from the United Nations and OIC, should meet during the latter half of January 1992 to assess progress achieved and to make recommendations for the development of human resources;

(c) The meeting of the technical working group would be held at Jeddah, with OIC providing the necessary conference facilities for the meeting;

(d) The conclusions and recommendations of the Rabat meeting would be submitted to:

(i) The Twentieth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

(ii) The next general meeting between the representatives of the secretariats of the organizations of the United Nations system and OIC and its specialized institutions.